



TALES OF
THE JEDI
4 OF 5

\$2.50 US
\$3.40 CAN

STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI™



STAR WARS® TALES OF THE JEDI

Tom Veitch
Script

David Roach
Art

Willie Schubert
Letters

Pamela Rambo
Colors

Dave Dorman
Cover Illustration

Dan Thorsland
Edits

Scott Tice
Logo and Book Design

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

EXECUTIVE VP
NEIL HANKERSON

VP OF PUBLISHING
DAVID SCROGGY

VP OF FINANCE
ANDY KARABATOS

GENERAL COUNSEL
MARK ANDERSON

ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR
CHRIS CREVISTON

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
TOD BORLESKE

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
RANDY STRADLEY

MANAGING EDITOR
BARBARA KESEL

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR
JERRY PROSSER

DESIGN DIRECTOR
CECE CUTSFORTH

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
BOB SCHRECK

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER
RANDY BOWEN



Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi #4 (of 5), January 1994. Published monthly by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Star Wars® is™ and © 1994 Lucasfilm Ltd. All rights reserved. Used under authorization. All other material, unless otherwise specified, is © 1994 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this publication and those of any pre-existing person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

PRINTED IN CANADA

THE SAGA OF NOMI SUNRIDER

In the time of Ulic Qel-Droma, a Jedi Knight named Andur Sunrider journeys to the galactic frontier to visit the legendary Master Thon. With him are his wife Nomi Sunrider, their young daughter Vima, and their protocol droid A-3DO.

As the little family passes through the Stenness Hyperspace Terminal, a cruel Hutt named Great Bogga learns that Andur is carrying a gift to his new teacher: precious Adegan crystals.

Staging a diversion to distract the Jedi's attention, the Hutt's men attack Andur Sunrider from behind with a poisonous Gorm-worm, and the young Jedi Knight is struck dead.

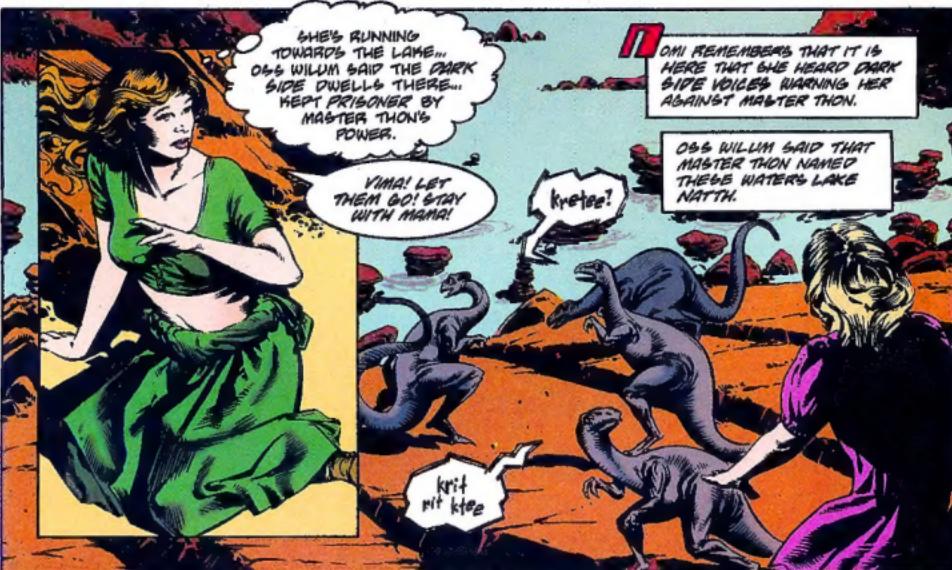
As her world comes crashing down, Nomi Sunrider must now defend herself and her daughter. Guided by the Force, she picks up her husband's fallen lightsaber and wields it with natural skill, driving off her husband's killers.

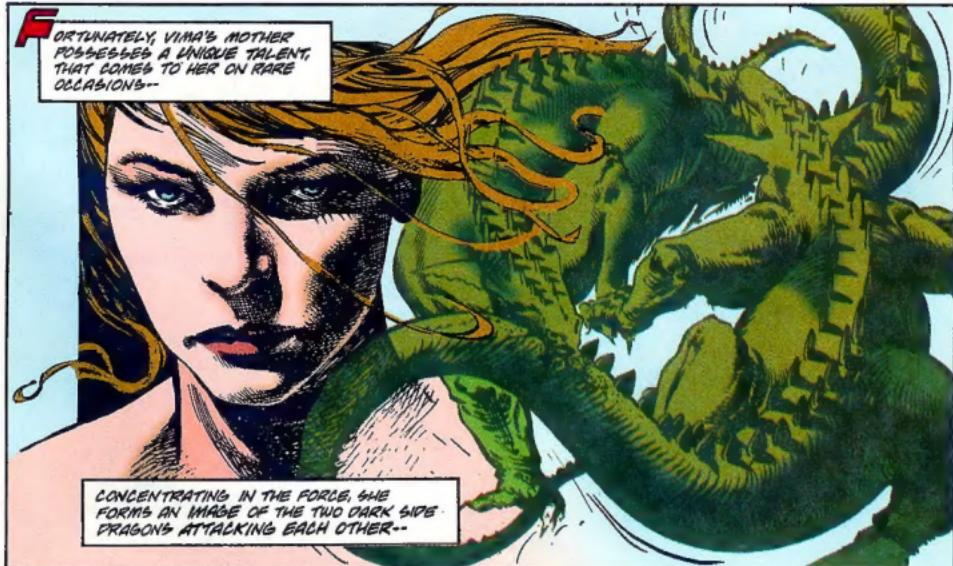
With the Force as their ally, Nomi Sunrider and her daughter continue the journey to the bleak desert world of Ambria. There Nomi meets Master Thon: an awesome armor-plated creature of savage countenance...and great wisdom.

IN THE MONTHS SINCE NOMI STARIDER BECAME THE APPRENTICE OF MASTER THON, THE GREAT JEDI HAS IGNORED HER.



AS THE CHILD OF TWO JEDI, VIMA IS ALREADY ABLE TO USE THE FORCE TO PROTECT HERSELF FROM THE SHARP TEETH OF THE EXCITABLE LIZARD'S.







-BUT SHE IS OVERWHELMED WITH CONFUSION, AS SHE HASTENS BACK TO MASTER THON'S DESOLATE COMPOUND.



"WHY COULDN'T MY HUSBAND ANDUR HAVE LIVED? WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE TAUGHT ME THE JEDI WAY?"



"ANDUR WAS A TRUE JEDI... A MAN OF GREAT STRENGTH AND FEELING. THERE WAS REAL LOVE IN OUR HOUSE..."



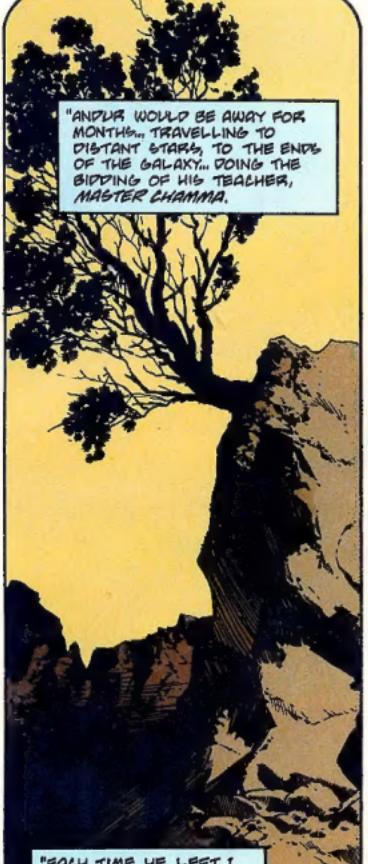
"YET EVEN WITH HIM I KNEW TIMES OF GREAT LONELINESS..."



"...HE WAS A JEDI KNIGHT. A JEDI CAN NEVER HESITATE TO RESPOND TO THE CALL OF DUTY."



"HOW MANY TIMES DID I WATCH HIM LEAVE? HOW MANY TIMES WAS I LEFT ALONE...?"



"ANDUR WOULD BE AWAY FOR MONTHS... TRAVELLING TO DISTANT STARS, TO THE ENDS OF THE GALAXY... DOING THE BIDDING OF HIS TEACHER, MASTER CHAMMA.



"AND THEN, WHEN HIS WORK WAS DONE... HE WOULD ALWAYS RETURN TO US.



"ALWAYS.



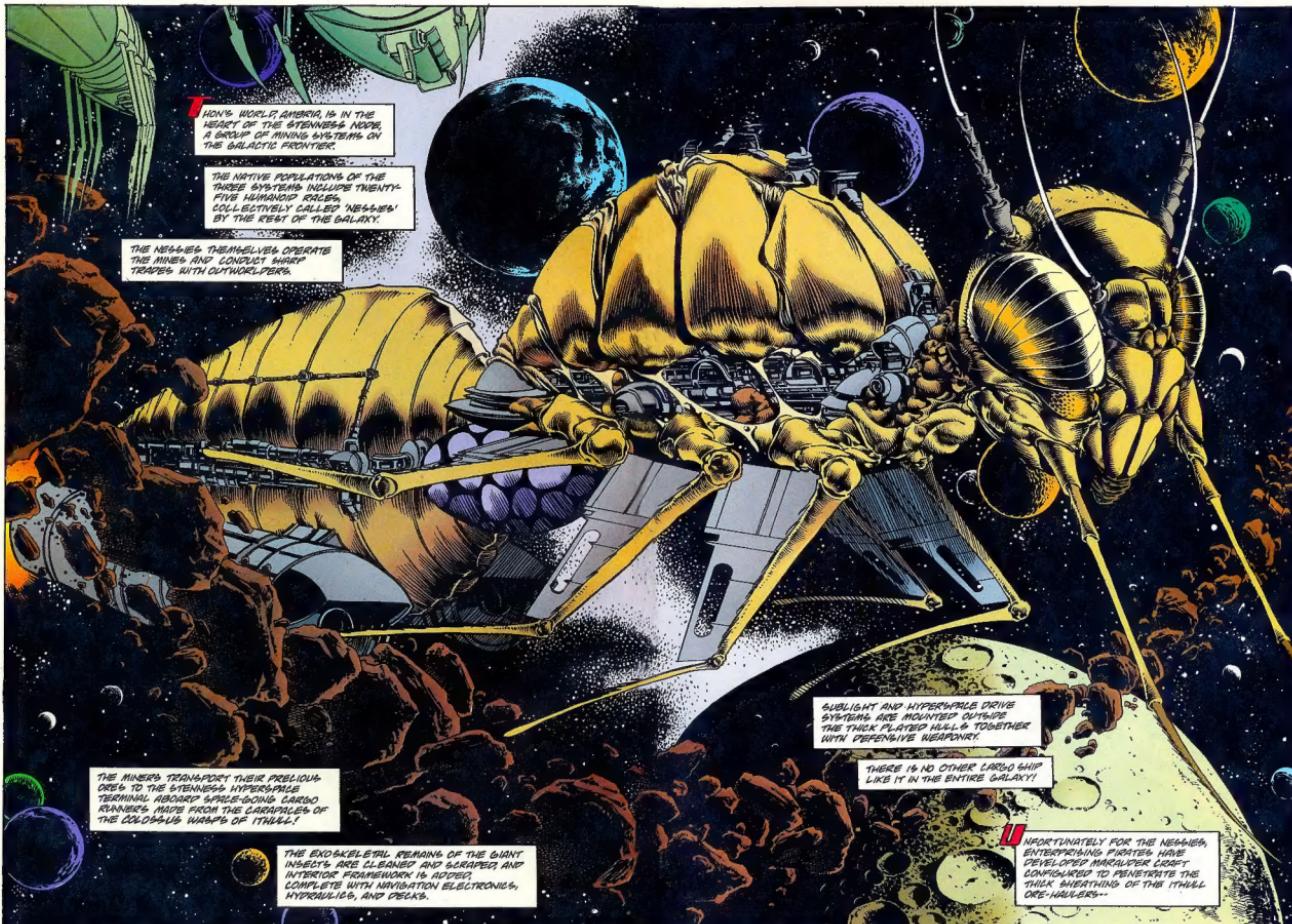
"EACH TIME HE LEFT I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK. I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD DIE IN BATTLE.

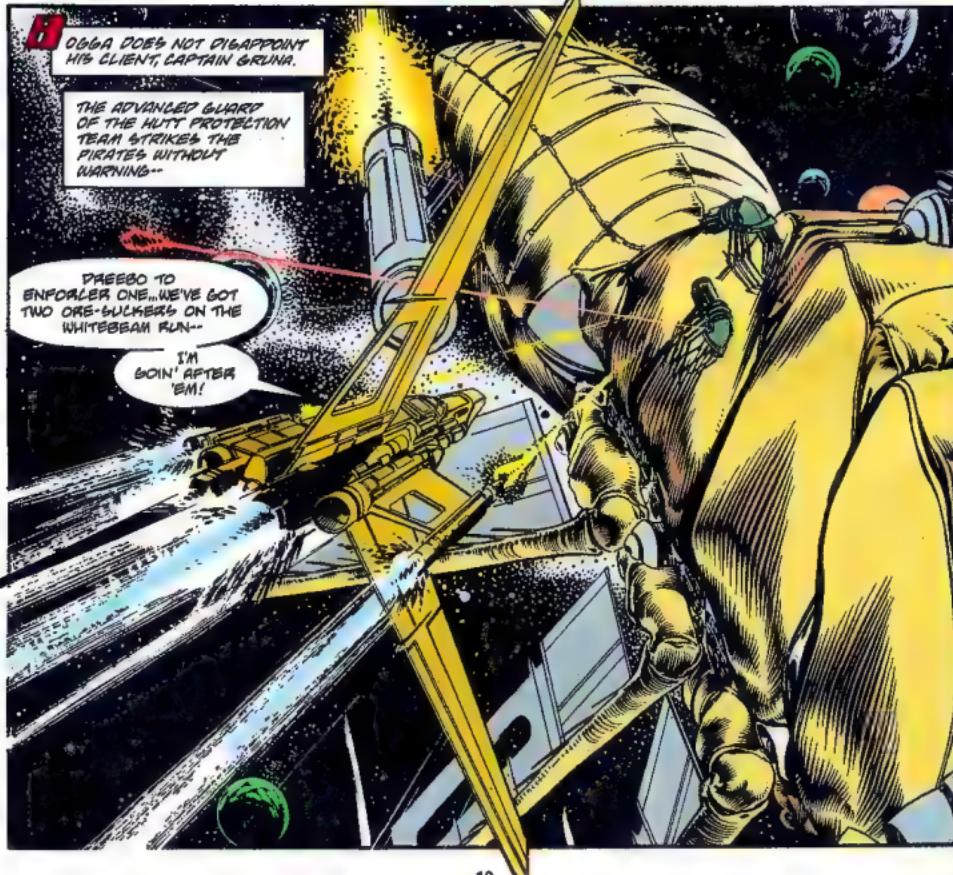
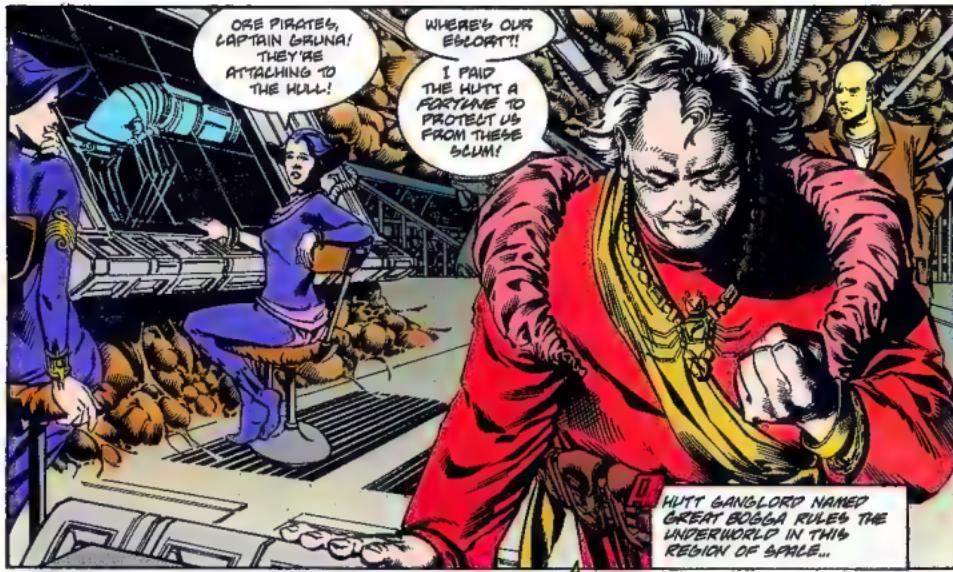


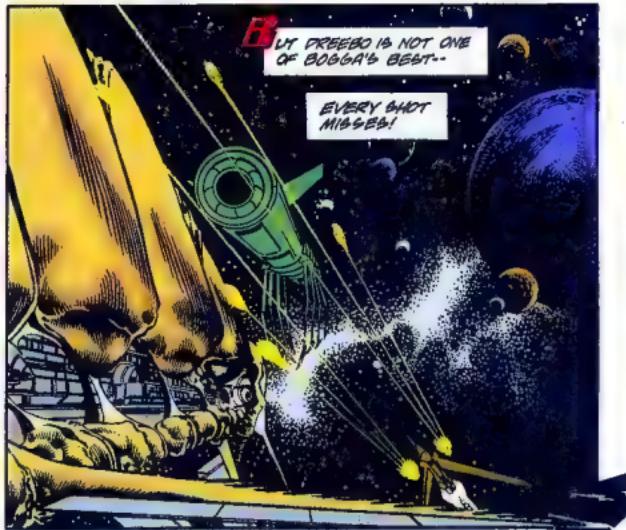
"EACH TIME HE CAME HOME I PUT LONELINESS AWAY, AND FEAR VANISHED.

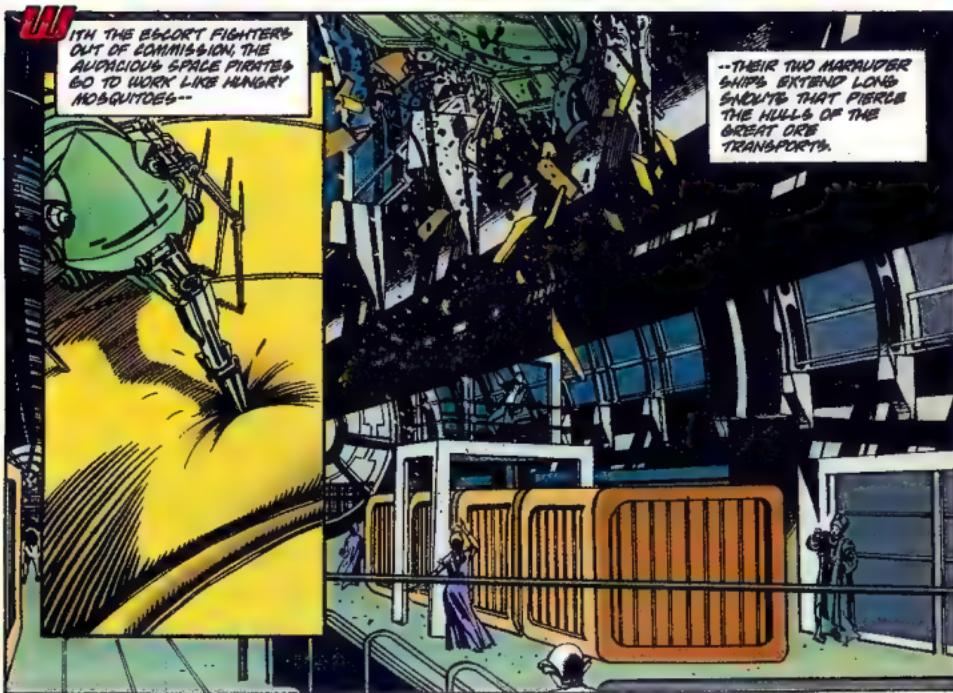
"NOTHING COULD HAPPEN TO ANDUR, AS LONG AS WE WERE TOGETHER.

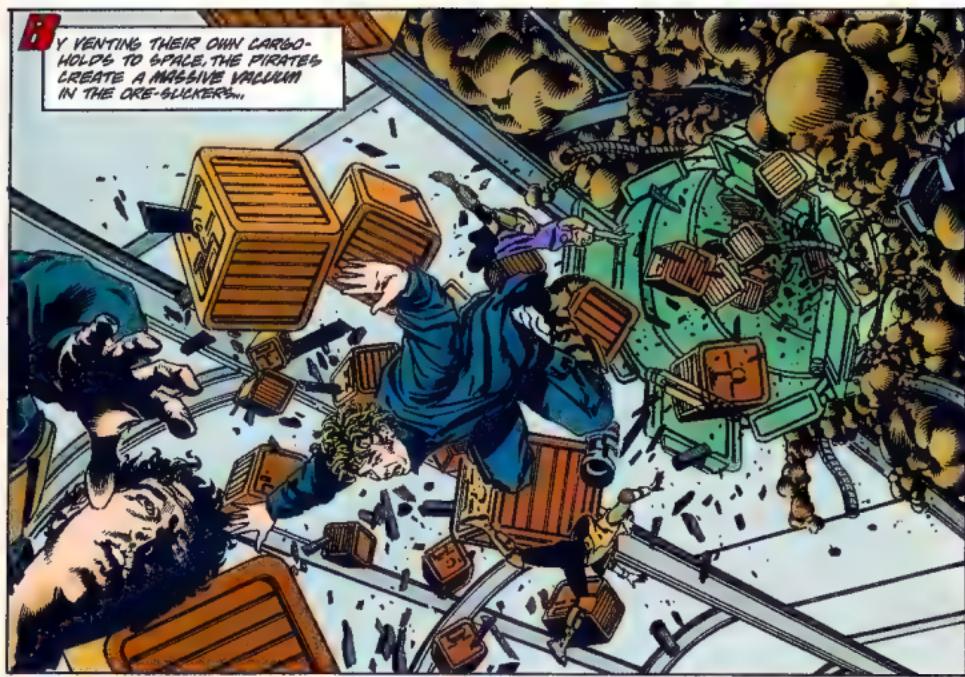














CAP'N FINHEAD!
SOMETHIN' BIG'S GOT US IN A
TRACTOR BEAM!

WEH?

THE CELEBRATION IS PREMATURE.
GREAT BOSSA DOESN'T RELY ONLY
ON DISPOSABLE WARRIOR'S TO
PROTECT HIS CLIENTS--!

HE KEEPS HIS REAL
MUSCLE IN RESERVE--
THE MIGHTY
DREADNOUGHT,
ENFORCER ONE.





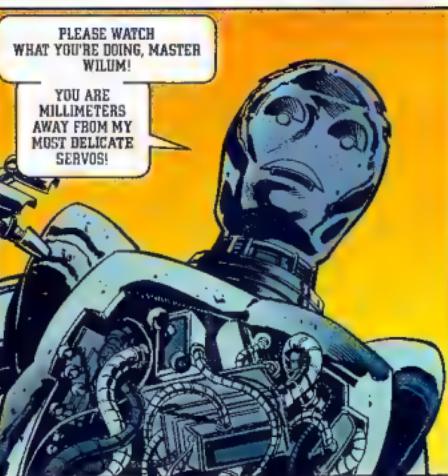
MEANWHILE
ON AMBRIA--



HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN MASTER THON?

IS HE... REALLY AS WISE AS THEY SAY HE IS?

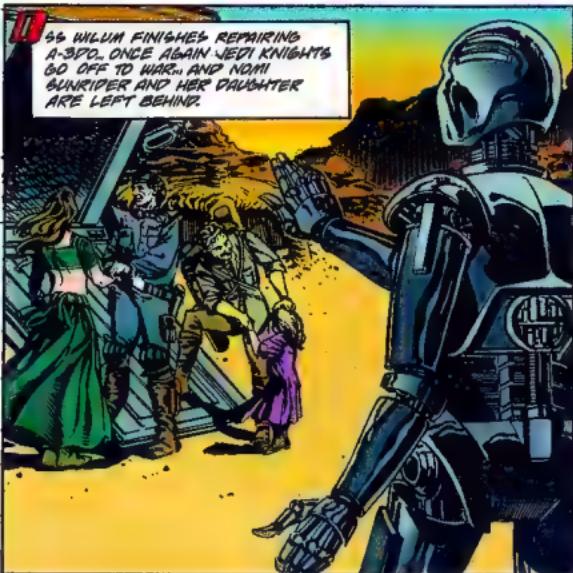
HE FRIGHTENS ME.







"IT IS A TIME OF GREAT TESTING FOR ALL OF US! TIME TO PROVE THE STRENGTH OF THE JEDI. FREEDOM NADD WAS A JEDI WHO WAS SEDUCED BY THE POWER OF THE DARK LORDS OF THE SITH."



ELSEWHERE AMONG THE
STENNESS WORLDS...

THE HUTT'S MIGHTY DREADNOUGHT
ENFORCER ONE BRINGS FINHEAD
STONEBONE AND HIS PIRATE
CREW TO GREAT BOOGA ON THE
HUTT'S PRIVATE MOON--

DIE
WANNA
WANGA?

OPEN
UP--I GOT
PRISONERS FOR
BOOGA'S
PLEASURE!

IKE HUTT LAIRS ALL OVER THE GALAXY,
BOGGA'S FORTRESS ATTRACTS RIFF-
RAFF AND BOTTOM FEEDERS, THE
HUMAN AND ALIEN DREGS OF
GALACTIC CIVILIZATION!



ENGCONED ON HIS THRONE,
GREAT BOGGA, WHO ORDERED
THE DEATH OF ANDUR
SUNRIDER, IS PETTING HIS
DARK SIDE FAMILIAR AND
ADMONISHING HIS LACKIES.



OH GREAT AND WELL-PROPORTIONED BOOGA!

YOUR ENFORCER, GRIMORD HAS ARRIVED WITH PRISONERS!

NE CHYTTA! SHOW THEM IN!

BACK OFF YA MONSTER--
SKRITCH HERE'LL NAME SHORT WORK
OF YA, IF I SAY THE WORD!

WAA GRIMORD, TE WANGA!

WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME?

OYE THIEVER, GREAT BOOGA. STEALIN' AUTONIUM OFF OUR FRIENDS, THE NESSIES!

HEY--
WATCH IT, TOAD! I GOT FRIENDS OF MY OWN!



END EHN
ONER I THEALY
J'D!!

YOU WILL USE
ADEGAN CRYSTALS TO
BUILD YOUR FIRST
LIGHTSABER.

I KNOW I MUST
TAME UP THE LIFE OF A JEDI... I
WILL DO IT.

BUT I WILL
NEVER TOUCH A LIGHTSABER
AGAIN.

A LIGHTSABER WILL
ONLY MAKE ME REMEMBER MY
HUSBAND'S DEATH...

ONTEMPLATING HER TEACHER,
NONI SUNRIDER REALIZES A
CURIOS FACT: WHEN HE
SPEAKS, IN HIS BEAST
TONGUE, SHE UNDERSTANDS
EVERYTHING HE SAYS!

THAT WAS NOT
VENGEANCE. THAT WAS
SELF-DEFENSE. THAT
WAS JUSTICE.

YOU HAVE
ALREADY SHOWN GREAT
NATURAL SKILL WITH THE
LIGHTSABER.

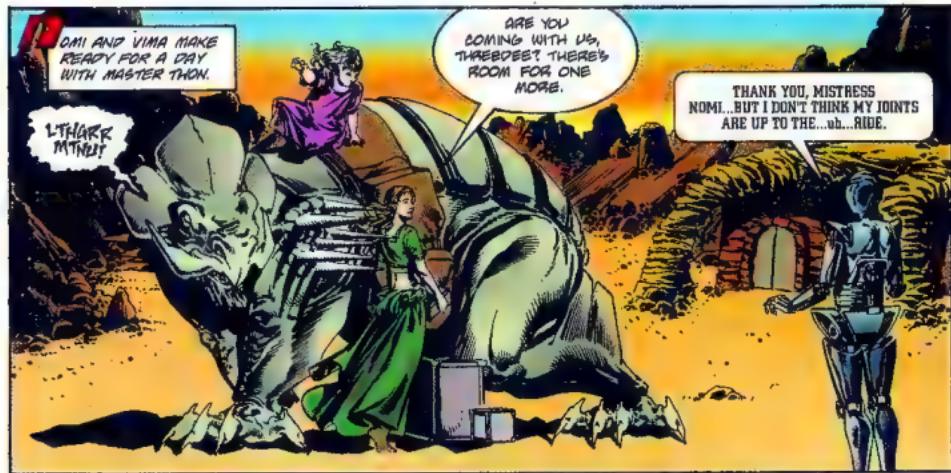
YOU YOURSELF, MASTER THON, DO
NOT CARRY A LIGHTSABER.

AS LONG
AS I DO NOT
HAVE TO USE
A LIGHTSABER
I WILL ACCEPT
YOUR
TRAINING.

WE WILL SEE. I
THINK IT IS LIKELY THAT
THE LIGHTSABER IS
YOUR DESTINY.

"COME, GATHER
SOME FOOD AND WE WILL
GO TO THE HILLS. I WILL
SHOW YOU MY BEAUTIFUL
WORLD."

BRING
YOUR DAUGHTER.
SHE TOD IS MY
APPRENTICE!







JEDI JOURNALS

10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

PLUG OF THE MONTH:

Dear Dark Horsers:

I want to commend you and thank you for all of your marvelous *Star Wars* comics! You have proven to be one of the all-time champions of *Star Wars* collectibles.

I happened into a comics shop back in December of 1991 and found *Dark Empire* #1. I hadn't read any comic since Marvel's *Star Wars* series ended in 1986, and as you can imagine, I was in for a big surprise! The comics industry has come a long way in the last 6 years. The stories are more mature, the artwork is more professional, and the physical printing process and paper used are of infinitely better quality. I certainly mean no disrespect to those earlier writers, artists, and technicians many of whom are still active in the business. Simply put, evolution has been very kind to the comic-book universe.

Ever since the original *Dark Empire*, I have become addicted to Dark Horse's *Star Wars* line. I am now a regular customer of all the local comic-book shops. So far my collection is complete, except for the *Dark Empire* gold editions and one of the *Insiders*.

I am enclosing a complimentary copy of the latest issue of my newsletter, *The Star Wars Collector*. Read about yourselves in the feature article!

Martin Thurn
Editor, *The Star Wars Collector*
5298 Caleb Drive
Columbus, OH 43220-1784

Thanks for the newsletter and the kind words Martin, we really do appreciate them! For those of you who, like me, are curious about the value of your cherished Star Wars trinkets, and just how much you should be paying for that IG-88 action figure, the Internettet Mr. Thurn delivers the latest info on new products and old, making his newsletter a great resource. Published six times a year, the annual subscription is a measly six bucks. Highly recommended!

Dear Jedi Journals:

A story circulating on the Internet news *Star Wars Group* dealt with a George Lucas-sanctioned *Star Wars* universe timeline that gives some details on the Lords of the Sith. The one I remember most is that there are supposed to be twelve, and that Darth Vader was the twelfth Dark Lord.

Is there some significance to the fact that on the cover of *Tales of the Jedi* #1 behind Ulic there are ten lightsabers, and that Ulic's makes eleven? There was recently a discussion about the nature of the Sith on Internet, and I seem to be the only one that picked up on this detail, or at least said anything about it.

As for the series in general, you guys are good. Very, very good. My only criticism of #2 was the premise of Cay replacing his own arm as he did. Realistically, I think he would have been incapacitated for longer than he was, let alone up to performing the necessary surgery to fashion a prosthesis from a droid. If

Onderon had not yet made galactic contact, beyond the arrival of the Jedi and Freedon Nadd, what would a droid of standard galactic issue be doing on a "primitive planet"? One possible solution might be that Nadd brought with him technology that had previously been unknown to Onderon. I guess I've explained my own question.

Beyond my one nit-picky criticism, I love the work. All of it. I am so intrigued by this series, and the history of the Jedi, that I've considered trying my hand at the fan-fiction game. I'll let you know how it goes, and in the meantime, keep it up!

One last question: I missed *Dark Horse Comics* #s 8 & 9, and the *Dark Horse Insider* with the *TOTJ* previews. I've looked in my local comic shops to no avail. Any chance of getting them directly from you?

Arik Hesseldahl
Eugene, OR

The Cay/droid arm scene has been bandied about quite a bit, leading me to the same conclusion the scene was written to: Cay is a Jedi, albeit a novice, and can control his body through the Force, which accounts for his suppression of pain and negligible blood loss from such a wound. The Jedi are strong at this time, and it isn't unlikely that a novice Jedi could accomplish this with a skilled master tutoring him. Luke's only tutoring was his brief encounter with Ben and the visit to Dagobah—a young Jedi with a year or two of such training would be very skilled, don't you think? And yes, while Onderon was only recently discovered by the Republic, the people of Iziz are likely to have traded with the explorers, and perhaps a standard issue droid or two found its way into the city by way of the explorers (or Freedon Nadd).

Dear Dan:

I love the *Tales of the Jedi* series and look forward to reading more of them.

In every issue I read the fan mail to get more information about upcoming *Star Wars* comics. In "Jedi Journals" from *TOTJ* #1, readers refer to black & white preview copies of this series, and I wanted to know how I could get one. I know the store I go to doesn't carry them.

Zach Bunker
(address not provided)

The preview copies you're looking for are simply photocopies of the first issue of a series. Zach, and are not available at any comic shop. I make the copies myself, and send them to anyone who happened to have sent in a funny, insightful, or attention-grabbing letter on a previous series (Dark Empire in this case). This year, I happened to have a few copies on hand at the big San Diego convention, and handed a few out to the Star Wars fans I met at the Dark Horse booth. I hope this clears up some of the confusion, as many fans seem to think that a preview copy is some special collectors' edition sent to a privileged inner circle of fans. It's just a photocopy, and I send them to people in hopes that they will write back in time for the first issue's lettercol. Really!

Dear Dan:

I am an avid *Star Wars* fan and have been so for many years. Recently, my girlfriend found something that, in my opinion, is an amazing thing: a comic book. This comic book was *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi* #1. I quickly bought the comic, and thought it was great. The artistry and story were outstanding. Even the printing seems to be of higher quality, much better than any others I have seen. I was very surprised—not at the quality of the work, but at the fact that *Star Wars* comics were still being produced.

I don't know of many other people that are happier than I am to see that *Star Wars* is back. Now, I've heard of a series previous to *TOTJ* called *Star Wars: Dark Empire*, but cannot find a shop that has it or is planning to get it. Is there any way I can order them from Dark Horse?

Paul Lemaitre
Newmarket, Canada

You bet! Call (800) 862-0052 between the hours of 1:00 to 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time, and the marvelous Michael Cox will be glad to

take your order. Do be aware that we only sell series that are still in print. You can readily acquire a copy of the Dark Empire softcover collection from us, but not the original series itself, or any "special editions" thereof, as they have been out of print for some time.

Dear Jedi Masters of Dark Horse:

I just finished reading *Tales of the Jedi* #2, and all I can say is WOW! What a story! The art was incredible, the characters well rounded, and there was no shortage of surprises. My only regret is that there will be only three more issues. Is there a chance you will continue this series past the planned five comics?

I loved the way Master Arca firmly yet caringly chastises Ulic near the end. Plus, he foreshadows Ulic's future by hoping that he will not fall to the dark side. Cay is my favorite character, and I hope he will eventually get a better replacement arm. I can't wait to read the next issue, so keep up the great work!

Aaron M. Stubbs
(address not provided)

Dear Dan:

I am sufficiently moved to write a letter concerning the second issue of *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*. Until this issue, I had yet to encounter such a shining example of the power of the comic-book medium. Because I am an aspiring science-fiction writer, I am aware of what really good science fiction can, and should, inspire in its audience. As I was reading this issue with my ever-extended antennae, I suddenly became aware of the level at which your fiction had suspended my disbelief. The history of Onderon was complete, its evolution was well thought-out, and its inhabitants weren't comprised of stereotypical bad guys, good guys, and creatures. Even more exciting was the imagery I was forming. Calling on my memories of the artful film trilogy and using each comic frame, I was delighted to watch a brand-new, pulse-pounding adventure unfold in my mind's eye. The Boma beast's drooling mouth and leathery skin, the Wave Gunner's and Beast Lord's attire, and Arca's ship are a few perfect examples of the *Star Wars* milieu.

Dave Dorman's beautiful cover art promised quality entertainment inside. The whole creative team of *Tales of the Jedi* delivered flawlessly. When I think

of my most valuable comic books now, I must consider more than just their monetary value.

Glenn A. Snow
Lynn, MA

Oh, stop it! You're making us blush, Glenn!

Dear Dark Horse:

As a long-time fan of anything and everything that is *Star Wars*, it came as a welcome surprise to learn that the adventure had been re-established in a monthly magazine. I would never have even known save for a relative that collects comics. She handed me the last three issues of *Classic Star Wars*, and ever since then I have been hitting the local comic-book dealers to find more. I've also acquired the first several issues of *Dark Empire*. The artwork is fantastic! It puts to shame the earlier attempts at doing a monthly comics series based on George Lucas' characters.

As I read more carefully through issue eight of *Classic*, I noticed that you also publish a free monthly guide called *The Dark Horse Insider* listing upcoming Dark Horse releases. I have yet to come across a shop that carries it, and wonder if I can get it from you? If possible, could I impose upon you to dig up numbers fifteen through twenty-one so I can read up on *Tales of the Jedi*? I just picked up the first issue and am completely hooked!

Steven Preston
Columbus, NE

*Many readers have been asking for those issues of the Insider, and the three issues of Dark Horse Comics containing the Nomi Sunrider story. Unfortunately, the aforementioned issues sold out instantly, and are virtually unavailable even as back issues. Fortunately, those stories were reprinted in these very pages because so many disappointed fans missed their first appearance! The twelve-page serial from the Insider is essentially the first twelve pages of *TOTJ*, with color and slight script revisions. The Dark Horse Comics story was reprinted last issue, re-colored and with a slightly revised script as well. I hope this sets your mind at ease, Steven, because you haven't missed a thing!*

—Dan Thorsland

NEXT ISSUE: THE AWAKENING OF A WOMAN WARRIOR!